



FAQs Regarding MCSD Board of Education Proposed Boundary Change (Phase 1)

The Murray City School District Board of Education is proposing a minimal boundary change for the 2024-25 school year. Along with this document, Murray citizens, parents, students, and educators will have opportunities to learn more about the change and express their feedback in formal public forums or individually with board members.

Why is this change necessary?

Like [other districts in Utah and nationwide](#), Murray is currently experiencing a declining enrollment [trend](#). As a steward of tax-payer dollars, the Murray Board of Education must ensure physical and financial resources are managed properly and has decided it must act.

What school(s) will be impacted?

The Board of Education is planning multiple phases to ‘right-size’ district facilities. This Phase 1 will be a simple boundary change to address low enrollment at Liberty Elementary. The proposal calls for a [small pocket of Parkside Elementary](#) population to attend Liberty. This will equalize enrollment numbers for the Liberty, with little impact districtwide.

Can my impacted student enroll at a different school?

Yes. Depending on availability of space, if your student is among those who will be re-boundaried into Liberty from Parkside you can go through an open enrollment process to attend a different school in Murray or elsewhere.

How will transportation impact students be transferring to Liberty?

The proposed boundary change impacts students who are currently being bussed to Parkside Elementary. They will continue to receive bussing services to Liberty Elementary.

Will there be any changes at the Jr. High School level.

No. The Phase 1 boundary change will not impact boundaries for our two jr high schools.

Will this change negatively impact Parkside Elementary?

No. Both Parkside and Liberty Elementary are [Title 1 schools](#) – meaning they receive extra funding to address equity and a distribution of resources. This change will shift proportionately by enrollment count those resources so that both school’s needs are met.

Are there any positives to this recommendation?

Yes. First, the change will impact only about 68 students. Second, parents of those students impacted will have easier access to Liberty using UTA Tracks. Lastly, the change gives the Board more time to address specifics of a more comprehensive Phase 2 of their plan.

What is the timeline for the Phase 1 change?

Following the announcement (Jan. 11), the Board of Education will hold two cottage meetings to share details and answer questions (Jan. 30 and Mar. 7). There will also be public comments taken at Board of Education meetings (Feb. 18, Mar. 14, and Apr. 11). The Board will take a final vote on the change at the April 18 meeting.

What is Phase 2 of the Board of Education’s plan?

Phase 2 will be much more comprehensive and require a [bond measure](#) that Murray Citizens will have the opportunity to vote on in November 2024. This will include rebuilding Riverview Jr. High and adding a wing to Murray High, paving the way for a shift to a middle school model, closure of one or more elementary schools, and further boundary changes.

What’s the difference between a middle school and jr. high school?

The primary difference between these school models is that [middle schools](#) enroll students in grades 6 to 8, while jr high schools enroll grades 7 to 9. Jr. highs have been around since the early 1900s and middle schools began popularity in the 1960s. In the US there are approximately 10 middle schools for every junior high.